Volume 24, No. 14, May 12, 2017

Nation

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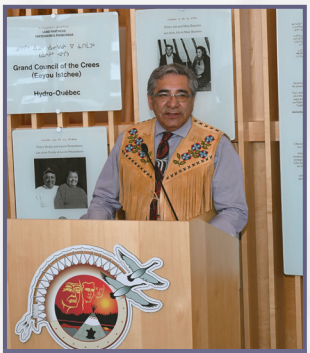

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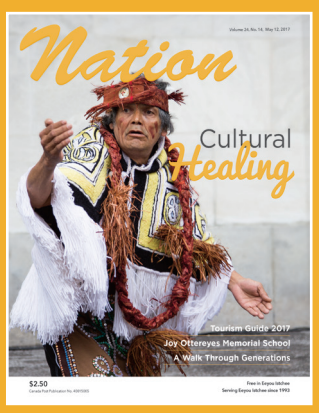

West Coast carver, Charles Joseph
Photo by
Trish Chiasson

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Editorial

Happy **anniversary?**

by Lyle Stewart

In his piece about a totem pole erected on May 1 in front of Montreal's Musée des beaux-arts as part of the city's 375th anniversary celebrations, Nation writer Dan Isaac gives us an interesting quote from the totem's carver, Charles Joseph. A residential school survivor, Joseph has a wry response to questions about the anniversary being celebrated in Montreal – and the 150th anniversary of Canada's founding being promoted with an orgy of funding by a federal government that continues to shirk its financial obligations to Canada's First Nations.

> So yes, if we are to observe these anniversaries, let us do so in the form of a **memorial**, not celebration.

"People ask me what I think about Canada's 150th birthday. I say, that's theirs, we've been partying for thousands of years," joked Joseph. "Let them enjoy theirs, ours is way beyond that."

The fetish to celebrate political birthdays is much more than an excuse to blow a big wad of cash on a huge party. In Montreal, it's a transparent ploy to prop up the re-election bid this fall by Mayor Denis Coderre, with a helping hand from his Liberal friends in Ottawa.

And really, what is the big deal about a 375th anniversary? We usually celebrate nice, round figures, like hundreds, or even fifties. I'm pretty sure untold millions weren't spent in 1717 on the 75th anniversary of when Catholic missionaries and a few French colonists arrived and set up a mission dedicated to the Virgin Mary named Ville Marie on May 17, 1642.

They didn't inquire how long the Mohawks had been living there. But when Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve erected a cross on Mount Royal, life magically began according to those who write our history books.

Likewise, the 150th anniversary of Great Britain's grant of limited sovereignty to a new dominion called Canada is the subject of pomp and ceremony and unlimited photo-ops for Prime Minister Selfie. But the celebration is a political statement of control, to legitimize the colonization and dispossession of the northern half of this continent. And it is not a happy anniversary – neither that of Montreal nor of Canada – for the people who had already occupied these lands for thousands of years.

There have been some attempts to acknowledge this. The City of Vancouver reluctantly decided at federal urging to participate in the national commemoration, but renamed its events as "150+". It's a nod to the fact that the arrival of Europeans was not the beginning of settlement. The land was already "settled."

In fact, before diseases brought from Europe wiped out 90% of the Indigenous population in the area surrounding modern-day Vancouver – including Charles Joseph's territory on the Johnstone Strait north of the city – more people were living in the region than were in New York City at the time.

So yes, if we are to observe these anniversaries, let us do so in the form of a memorial, not celebration. That might be the beginning of the reconciliation that is symbolized by Mr. Joseph's totem pole.

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News

Rumble **rocks T.O.**

Rumble premiers to sold out crowd at Hot Docs

by Dan Isaac

The Canadian premiere of Rezolution Pictures' award-winning film, *Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World*, was held April 30 at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto.

The film, directed by Catherine Bainbridge and Alfonso Maiorana, chronicles the little-known history of Indigenous influence on popular music. Specifically, it follows the progression of rock and roll as it relates to the seminal instrumental song "Rumble," composed by American Indian singer-songwriter Link Wray.

To this day major musicians like Iggy Pop, Jimmy Page and Dan Auerbach cite the song's influence, while others talk about "Rumble" as a forge for the genre of heavy metal. But in an era that predates the civil rights movement, of the 1960s it wasn't always safe for musicians like Wray to identify themselves as Indigenous.

And while *Rumble* has already garnered illustrious honours, such as being named one of Rolling Stone magazine's 25 must-see films at the Sundance Film Festival and winning the festival's World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Masterful Storytelling, it's nice to be recognized on home soil.

Rumble received a standing ovation following its final screening in Toronto. It was named by Now magazine as one of their "10 Hot Docs to Book Now," Exclaim magazine called *Rumble* one of their seven must sees, it made CBC's list of nine films they're "most excited about", and was hailed as "outstanding" by Toronto Film Scene.

"The accolades are nice, and I'm glad people are liking the film and responding to it the way they are, but the real reward is that the story is getting out there," said Executive Producer Ernest Webb, the co-founder of Rezolution Pictures. "This is an important story that needs to be heard. The recognition it's getting is just the icing on the cake."

Though *Rumble* premiered at number 1 at Hot Docs, another Indigenous documentary overtook it on May 3. Birth of a Family follows the story of four siblings who are reunited after being separated for 40 years by the Sixties Scoop.

"It's an honour to be among the great Indigenous films this year that are featured in the biggest doc festival in North America," said Webb. "It's sending a clear message about how relevant and important these stories are."

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Miss Indian **World**

by Dan Isaac

Mistissini's Kayleigh Spencer represents Eeyou Istchee at Gathering of Nations

It was a whirlwind week for Eeyou Istchee's Kayleigh Spencer. The inaugural Miss Eeyou/Eenou competed for a chance at the title of Miss Indian World 2017, from April 25-29, at the Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Spencer arrived on Monday with her chaperone, Linda Shecapio, the president of the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association. Tuesday was orientation day for the girls. On Wednesday the competitors had private interviews with judges. Thursday was the traditional talent competition. The public speaking portion of the competition took place on Friday, and Miss Indian World was crowned on Saturday.

Unfortunately, Spencer won't be bringing the crown home to Mistissini, but she has no regrets.

"I didn't win, but I'm not disappointed at all. Just being able to go and experience it was awesome," said Spencer. "I left feeling so much more confident and was already excited for the next girl from the Cree Nation who gets to represent us."

The title did go to a First Nations woman from Quebec, however, as Raven Swamp, a Mohawk from Kahnawake, took home the crown.

While Spencer admits there were nerves, the encouragement she received from the community was a calming force.

"We weren't allowed to have our phones that first day but after we finished I checked my phone and saw dozens of posts on my wall," Spencer told *the Nation*. "I felt so inspired. It was a real eye-opener to how supportive the Cree community is."

For Spencer, seeing the Red Dress Jingle Dance in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women is something she'll never forget. "Everyone at the powwow was invited to wear a red jingle dress and participate in the tribute dance," said Spencer. "It was so emotional and beautiful, I was really happy to have witnessed that."

Spencer isn't going home empty handed.

"I was surprised by how close I got with all the girls. I learned so much about their cultures, and we're still all connected through social media," said Spencer. "I feel like I gained 22 new sisters.

"I was one of two girls there who was fluent in their language, and it was a nice reminder of how rich the Cree Nation is in language and culture. Hopefully it will inspire girls to go after this opportunity, and this opportunity comes with knowing your language and being able to represent your culture."

Spencer thanks the Cree Nation for its support, especially chaperone Linda Shecapio for being her "mom" for the week. "The week was so crazy and she kept me organized. It was amazing to feel so supported by the community," said Spencer.

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In Brief

Badabin Eeyou celebrates young artists

At the end of April, Badabin Eeyou School in Whapmagoostui announced the winners chosen from student participants in a regional art exhibit in Waskaganish. First Place Elementary in drawing was Trey Snowboy, First Place Secondary in sculpture was Rain Iserhoff, Second Place Secondary in ink drawing was Charmaine Alisappi, Third Place Secondary in mixed media was Rain Iserhoff and Third Place Secondary in painting was Charmaine Alisappi.

Elementary category winners received $40 while first place in the High School competition took home $100. All of the winners' artwork will be on display at the Cree School Board's head office in Mistissini for the next year.

At press time *the Nation* was unable to secure a full list of winners due to school closures for Goose Break.

Nutrition North report offers no solutions

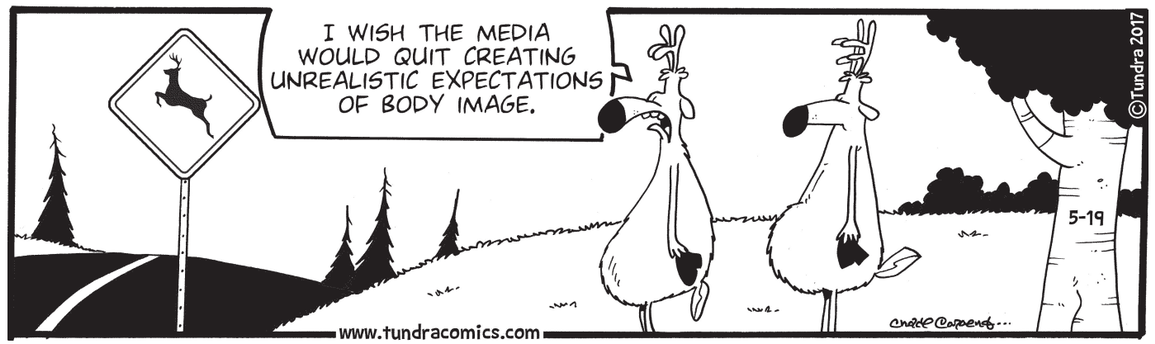
Following consultations in 21 communities, the review of 19 written submissions and numerous interviews with entrepreneurs, activists and regional leaders, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has compiled a list of comments and complaints regarding the Nutrition North Canada food subsidy program, but doesn't suggest a plan to fix it.

A cross-Canada tour to look at the program's effectiveness ran from May 2016 to January 2017 to hear from both the retailers whose products are subsidized and the people who depend on the subsidy to meet their basic needs. The final report was published online by INAC on April 28 (see nutritionnorthcanada.gc.ca). According to Nunatsiaq News, it contains "a dizzying kaleidoscope of demands, complaints and suggestions" while airing several misconceptions of the differences between Nutrition North Canada and the Food Mail subsidy it replaced.

The report includes several requests that lard, butter, margarine, rice, pasta, coffee, tea and large juices be moved to the level 2 subsidy list, infant formula and baby food receive a higher subsidy, personal care items like diapers, wipes and baby bottles be eligible for the funding and that country food be included in the program.

Other complaints include feelings that northern customers do not receive the full benefit of the subsidy, concerns that perishable food is often spoiled upon arrival, suspicions that retailers raise their price before the subsidy is applied to increase profit, an overall lack of transparency, subsidized rates being lower than standard air freight rates and calls from health workers to no longer subsidize unhealthy items like side bacon, ice cream, processed cheese spreads and processed meats.

In the Senate last February, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said that Canada is up against "a difficult challenge" addressing food insecurity in the North. While INAC has received all sorts of suggestions, the Trudeau government has not indicated the changes it will make – if any – in order to improve the $80 million program.



Indie Rock Band Wolf Parade at Osheaga 2016, Photo by Tim Snow

summer Times

The Nation's 2017 Tourism Guide

by Joshua Grant & Amy German

As the last of the snow melts, it's time to plan how to take advantage of the warm weather and time away from work or school. There's a plethora of activities available to Quebecers. So if you're planning a few weekend trips to Montreal or Ottawa, or seeking entertainment around Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the regions surrounding the Cree Nation, we've once again put together a list of highlights for family fun and events for all ages taking place throughout summer 2017. Keep an eye out for upcoming information concerning this year's powwow listings and fishing tournaments. Now that we've made it to May, summer is truly just around the corner.

osheaga

Montreal's multi-genre music festival that caters mainly to teens and young adults runs August 4-6 and brings its mix of rock, pop, hip-hop and electronic dance music to a new location this year. Since the city is breaking ground on a 65,000-capacity amphitheatre on Parc Jean-Drapeau's Île Sainte-Hélène, which has hosted the event for 10 years, Osheaga takes over the Gilles Villeneuve racetrack and surrounding area on the neighbouring Île Notre-Dame. Perhaps festival-goers will have access to the Jean-Drapeau beach?

Notable artists at this year's festival include Lorde, Justice, De La Soul, Muse, Major Lazer, Danny Brown, Solange, Cage the Elephant, The Weeknd, Alabama Shakes, Die Antwoord and Run the Jewels. | osheaga.com

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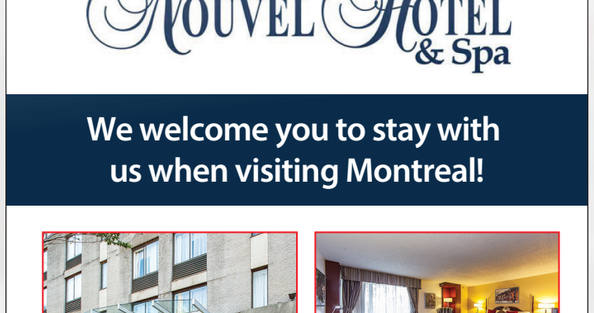

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MUSEUMS DAY

By the end of May Montreal is blooming as the city peels off its winter layers and prepares for summer festivals and fun in the sun. If you'd like an affordable family trip into town before things get too crazy, plan around Montreal's Museums Day happening on Sunday, May 28. Almost all of the city's 40-plus museums offer free admission along with a free shuttle service that takes you from one museum to another.

While the statues, paintings and prints housed at the museums of contemporary and fine arts might not be all that exciting for everyone, there are plenty of interactive attractions that promise a good time for all ages. Some suggestions: Grévin Montreal, the city's wax museum, the Redpath Museum of natural science at McGill University that houses a few dinosaur skeletons, or the Science Centre in the Old Port. The Biodome, Planetarium, Botanical Garden and Insectarium all within walking distance of the Pie IX and Viau métro stations.

museesmontreal.org

BEER FEST

The Festival mondiale de la bière, Montreal's international beer festival, has been bringing together the finest brews from around the world for people 18 and up since 1994. More about tasting than consumption, the annual event at the Palais des congrès near the Place d'Armes métro station runs June 14-18 and will once again offer an outdoor terrasse. On top of whites, wheats, lagers, blondes, ambers, pilsners and IPA's from big breweries and small craft producers alike (purchased with $1 tasting coupons), the five-day event boasts free admission, beer alternatives like cider and Twisted Tea as well as an excellent selection of pub food.

festivalmondialbiere.qc.ca

FOLK FESTIVAL ON THE CANAL

Celebrating its 10th anniversary June 14-18, the Montreal Folk Festival brings in big-name artists every year for a combination of big indoor shows around Montreal's Southwest Borough and three days (Friday to Sunday) of free outdoor programming on the banks of the Lachine Canal. The outdoor element of Folk Fest is the perfect family outing, complete with bouncy castles, face painting, a kids' stage, food trucks, boutiques and quality live music ranging from country to blues and folk rock to bluegrass. The event takes place on the Esplanade du Centenaire on the corner of Saint Patrick and Pitt streets and every year the festival teams up with Parks Canada to offer a night of camping on the canal. | montrealfolkfest.com

montreal grand prix

From June 9-11, Formula One's Montreal Grand Prix and all the festivities that come with it take over Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Parc Jean-Drapeau, as well as a large chunk of downtown between Peel and Crescent streets. While the massive crowds and noisy party-goers downtown can be a bit much, the race itself guarantees excitement for motor-sport enthusiasts.

grandprixmontreal.com

just for laughs

Montreal's perennial comedy festival Just for Laughs is back July 12-31 with galas and themed shows, plus major comic headliners like Jerry Seinfeld, Keving Hart, Trevor Noah, Sugar Sammy & Rick Mercer recently announced. Hosting the Ethnic Show this year is Maz Jobrani with special guests Steve Byrne, Jessica Kirson, the Doo Wops, Mike Rita and Vlad Caamaño while the Nasty Show will feature Jimmy Carr, Robert Kelly, Godfrey and Big Jay Oakerson. Shows by Mike Birbiglia and John Mulaney are also on the schedule. Check out the full line-up at hahaha.com

national aboriginal day

While numerous events are planned in celebration of National Aboriginal Day on June 21, the Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN) recently announced an ambitious plan for what they're calling Canada's "largest National Aboriginal Day Celebration".

Dubbed Aboriginal Day Live, APTN's slogan for this year's event is "Eight cities. One great gathering" as they will broadcast live online and on TV and radio with reporters on location in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Yellowknife, Edmonton and Vancouver. The celebration in each city will feature free daytime activities followed by evening concerts with over 70 artists spread out across the stages in the eight locations.

Activities in Montreal get started at 11 am with a parade entry marching into Place des Arts' Quartier des Spectacles, followed by cultural and musical performances, a sacred fire ceremony and a round dance. Emerging Indigenous artists will provide "pre-show entertainment" in the evening, from 5:30 to 6:45, setting the stage for an evening concert from 7:30 to 9:30 that will be streamed online. APTN says that the full lineup and details on the event will be announced in early May. Keep an eye out for the hashtag #ADL2017. | aboriginaldaylive.ca

Photo by Trish Chiasson

Kicking off July 1 and closing on August 5, the International des Feux Loto-Québec features an international competition and a dazzling array of pyrotechnics scheduled every Saturday evening at 10 pm, with two Wednesday night shows mixed in July 19 and 26.

This year's competition includes Italy, Poland, Germany, France, Portugal and England, with opening and closing shows organized by Montreal. You can take in the fiery, noisy, thematic displays free of charge from the Jacques Cartier Bridge and Notre Dame, east of the bridge, or spend a day at La Ronde amusement park and snag front-row seats. The projectiles are launched from Île Sainte-Hélène over the St. Lawrence River – get there early if you want a spot on the bridge.

fireworks competition

KAHNAWAKE POWWOW

The Echoes of a Proud Nation Powwow will be hoping for better weather conditions at this year's weekend cultural celebration in Kahnawake July 8-9. Last year the outdoor site on the banks of the Saint Lawrence River was mired in rain, which dancers, vendors and spectators bravely endured even though the bad weather resulted in a low turnout.

Now in its 27th year, the powwow offers an arts-and-crafts exposition, cultural food vendors, three grand entry parades, inter-tribal dance and hand drum competitions and plenty of other Mohawk ceremonies and traditions spread out over the two days of festivities. A $4 shuttle bus service is available to the site from the Angrignon métro station and admission costs $8 for the general public and $4 for seniors while children under 5 years old enter for free.

kahnawakepowwow.com

PRÉSENCE AUTOCHTONE

Montreal's festival for all things Indigenous will set up in the Quartier des Spectacles and other venues around the city August 2-9. Over the course of eight days the First People's festival features film screenings, live musical performances, cultural displays and Indigenous ceremonies under the sign of meeting and respecting differences. The full programming will be announced June 13. | presenceautochtone.ca

PRIDE PARTY

From August 11-20 Montreal's LGBTQ Pride party will be bigger than usual, expanding to accommodate Canada Pride's national event as well as Montreal's anniversary celebrations. Place Émilie-Gamelin and Parc des Faubourgs will be the two hubs for outdoor activities while the Claude-Robillard sports complex will host a two-day sports tournament featuring badminton, rugby, soccer, tennis, volleyball and water polo August 12-13.

Other activities include a food fair, live outdoor concerts and a conference titled "LGBTTIQA2S Lives: Our struggles, our victories, our challenges". The festivities conclude with the much-anticipated annual parade that will take on Ste-Catherine St. August 20. | fiertemontrealpride.com

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Outside Montreal

DANSE ENCORE

For those who love the sight and sound of dance, the Festival International de Danse Encore is back in Trois-Rivières June 8-11. For its 23rd edition, the festival will showcase over 150 dance acts or troupes from Canada, the US, Colombia, Spain and Japan. If you also want to tap your toes, the festival hosts several special dance parties for aficionados and first timers. There will be zumba and swing mega-parties as well as several dance competitions. Whether dance is your thing or you are just looking for a good time, this festival offers all sorts of gems.

dansencore.ca

PIKOGAN POWWOW

Pikogan's annual powwow is growing quickly, going from four or five drum groups in the first few years to a total of 13 in 2016. The sixth edition will be held June 10-11, hosting fun events on top of the grand entry, dancing, drumming, singing, traditional food and ceremony.

Saturday morning features a tciman (portage-to-canoe) race, followed by powwow activities from 1 pm to 9 pm with a magoshan (traditional feast) at 5. At 9:30 pm Saturday night there will be a multi-cultural jam session open to Natives and non-Natives alike, with each artist sharing a few of their own songs before joining together for a grand finale. Sunday morning will feature traditional strongman and strong-woman portage competitions before the powwow resumes at noon and concludes around 4 pm.

pikogan.com

KITE FESTIVAL

Looking for family fun that's bright, colourful? Then check out the Saint-Honoré Kite Festival. This growing event now features live entertainment along with children's activities and championship kite flyers from all over the world. Running June 17-19, this year's event features rock/blues act Jonas and the Massive Attraction, the eclectic Bodh'aktan, Pink Floyd tribute band The Black Side, and La Macchina Volante, a theatrical performance with kites and clowns.

sthonoredanslvent.com

MONTEBELLO ROCKFEST

Kick off your summer concert season in style at Montebello Rockfest June 22-25. This premier rock fest has become legendary in a matter of a few years. Mixing old school with new school, this year's headliners include mega acts Rammstein, Queens of the Stone Age, Iggy Pop, At the Drive-In, Wu-Tang Clan, Megadeth, The Offspring, Bad Religion, AFI, The Specials, Eagles of Death Metal, 311, Messhuggah, Converge, Pennywise, Jello Biafra & The Guantanamo School, PUP and Lucero.

What makes this event even more magical are some of the accommodations available at hotels like the five-star Fairmont Le Château Montebello. If you prefer to rough it, there's also plenty of camping available on-site and in private locations around town.

montebellorockfest.com

BLUES FEST

Bringing bluesy tunes to the north this summer is the Festival de Blues du Plateau Boréal in Val-d'Or June 29-July 1. It will be a sizzling Canada Day weekend as some big-name blues players take to the stage.

walleye festival

A favourite for Crees and many other Quebecers is the James Bay Walleye fishing tournament June 22-July 1. Featuring numerous categories for professionals, amateurs, local fishermen and women as well as trophies for fishers from the region and beyond. As this is an ongoing event that stretches into the holiday weekend, it always offers lots of live entertainment, including kids' entertainers and family activities, for those camping at the site.

Photo by Brendan Forward

With Sugaray Rayford and Crystal Shawanda as headliners, this fest will feature numerous acts at eight different venues as well as an outdoor party scene that's family friendly and has merchants and a fun atmosphere. Also featuring the Blackburn Brothers, Cécile Doo-Kingué, Shawn McPherson, Sons of Rhythm and Dwane Dixon, this is a weekend not to be missed.

FESTIVAL EN CHANSON

The 10-day Festival en chanson de Petite-Vallée has been around for 35 years and is a celebration of francophone songs in the Gaspé region June 29-July 8. This onetime local musical competition has taken on a life of its own and become an event that attracts festival-goers from across the province and the rest of the country. This year features shows by Sarah Toussaint-Léveillé, Dumas, Amylie, Patrick Norman, Les Hôtesses d'Hilaire, Klô Pelgag, Les Soeurs Boulay and two special presentations by Vague de Cirque. There's also a charity run to benefit the Fonds Dan-Gaudreau, a foundation that helps the youth in the region have access to culture and arts.

festivalenchanson.com

FESTIVAL D'HUMOUR

Running July 4-9, the Festival d'humour de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue in Val-d'Or offers all sorts of hilarious events aimed to please every audience. While this comedy fest was once solely in French, in recent years it has added English programming to appeal to anglophone visitors visiting the north. This year's headliner performing in English will be veteran comic Mike Ward. Known for his bilingual act, Ward is a favourite both in Quebec and Canada.

festivaldhumour.com

QUEBEC CITY FESTIVAL D'ÉTÉ

Spread out over two weeks in Quebec City, the festival d'été brings a heavy hitting line-up to the provincial capital that blends French and English artists from all genres of music. A 50-year mainstay of summer activities in Quebec, this year's edition will runs July 6 to 16 and features the likes of Kendrick Lamar, A Tribe Called Red, Metallica, Muse and the Who, just to name a few. While some of the concerts are free the vast majority require a festival pass that can be had for only $95 for the full two weeks of shows.

Infofestival.com

TRUCK RODEO

Running August 3-6, Abitibi's Truck Rodeo, one of the biggest events of the north, brings together a wide variety of Mac Truck-related activities at which truckers compete against each other. Plus there's a parade of trucks, truck displays, a market, a public mass for truckers and fireworks! Featuring daily entertainment, this is an event that's not just for truckers and their families, but for everyone in the region to party, shop, socialize and worship trucks.

elrodeo.com

WESTERN FESTIVAL

If you want to give summer once last kick at the can and do it "western style," the annual Festival Western de St-Tite is the event to pick September 7-17. Featuring country music, a rodeo and leather trading (which was how this thing got started), this year's headliners are Alabama and Dean Brody. There are also numerous Québécois country acts to enjoy and loads of rodeo classics to keep the cowboys and cowgirls entertained while sportin' their Stetsons and shitkickers (cowboy boots). Besides western dancing and shopping for western gear, you can have your own western wedding at this event if you book far enough in advance and no, it doesn't have to be to your cousin.

festivalwestern.com

ottawa bluesfest

Ottawa's 10-day music festival keeps growing every year and attracting big-name international artists. Held on LeBreton Flats in downtown Ottawa, this year's event runs July 6-16 and hosts artists on five different stages with musical genres ranging from country to EDM to hip hop. It's a killer lineup that includes Toby Keith, 50 Cent, P!NK, LCD Soundsystem, Gary Clark Jr., A Tribe Called Red, Muse, Midnight Shine and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. There are even a few actual blues artists! | ottawabluesfest.ca

festival du cochon

If you ever wanted to go to an event entirely devoted to pigs, this is the one. With greased pig competitions, a celebration of pork products and "hogs" of a different kind (i.e., motorcycles), the Festival du cochon de Sainte-Perpétue is a one-of-a-kind event in so many ways. Bringing together greased pig contests with motorcycle racing (because that somehow needed to happen), this event features the hog-tying of wild boars, greased pig obstacle courses for the whole family, tractor pulls and gourmet food. As the pork industry is huge in Quebec, this event has been around for 40 years but it's only now becoming better known. It takes place August 3-6. | festivalducochon.com

Ivanie Aubain-Malo, Photo by Trish Chiasson

ADVERTORIAL

Hydlo and FRIENDS Online

Describing fish communities in the Eastmain River

E tipâchimâkanûtwâu namesach aniteh Eastmainîu sîpîhch

To watch the new video, visit **www.hydloandfriends.com**

At the foot of the generating stations on the Eastmain river, a team studies fish communities following the changes to the aquatic environment that resulted from the commissioning of Eastmain-1-A generating station. Using net fishing and laboratory measurements and sampling, the team assesses fishing yields and describes the characteristics of fish communities.

Fish pass, Eastmain river

Lifting of the fish nets

Workers, Eastmain camp laboratory

Each month, a new video will be added to hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-Sarcelle-Rupert complex, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec's facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, May 17, at 8:00 a.m.

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- **TIME?**
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- **TRADITIONAL DINNER**
  5pm
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  2. Environment
  3. Renard Mine
- **2 Q&A SESSIONS WITH STORNOWAY REPRESENTATIVES**
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www.stornowaydiamonds.com

joyful memories

Story & Photos by Katherine Dehm

Cute dresses and winter toques flashed here and there as swarms of people squeezed through the open doors of Joy Ottereyes Rainbow Memorial School (JORMS) on April 27. The smell of turkey wafted through the bright hallways, and an acoustic cover of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" filled the mezzanine as snapshots of a girl's life faded in and out on a memorial slideshow. The artwork, balloons and streamers had the spotless gymnasium all decked out with every colour of the rainbow. Wemindji had gathered for the eagerly awaited grand opening of their new elementary school.

One short year ago, Wemindji's Maquatua Eeyou School (built in 1974) served both high school and elementary students. Classrooms were permanently set up in the staff room, in the library, on the stage and even in the garage. The school nurse was placed in what had been a closet, according to Principal Shauna Simpson. Maquatua Eeyou School is still being used as the high school and currently holds 164 students. There are about 263 students attending JORMS.

The new school was announced in Wemindji October 15, 2014, by federal Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard Valcourt and Quebec Education Minister Yves Bolduc. Also present were Quebec's Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Geoffrey Kelley, Ungava MNA Jean Boucher and Wemindji Chief Dennis Georgekish.

Wemindji celebrates Joy Ottereyes' short but cheerful life in naming of new school

Now the school is a reality. And the technology alone is something to be celebrated. Every JORMS classroom has a smart board, a laptop, two docking stations and 10 iPads with their own charging cupboard.

Designed by Montreal architect Stephen Rotman, one of the most impressive features of the school is the abundance of windows, particularly in the mezzanine, where almost an entire wall is glass. "We have so much more space," stated Simpson. "Any challenges we face are outweighed by the absolute abundance that we have now."

Joy Ottereyes Rainbow Memorial School was named after the late daughter of Charlene Miniquaken and Brian Ottereyes. Miniquaken was advised to terminate her pregnancy when doctors discovered something was wrong with her baby. She responded, "As long as I see her breathing that's good enough for me."

The baby did more than breathe. Joy walked, talked, laughed, cried, crushed on boys and inspired many lives in her 11 short years.

Joy was born with spina bifida, a neural tube defect that occurs when the vertebrae don't form properly around part of the spinal cord. It left her with no bladder or bowel control, thus "Pampers" became a nickname the other children would throw her way.

Despite that, Joy is described by all as having been a loving person. "She was a joy," explained Miniquaken. "She loved everybody."

With a breaking voice, she repeated her daughter's words, "Mom, there's nobody bad in this world."

These words have helped Miniquaken become a more forgiving person. After her daughter's passing, she was even able to offer comfort to her daughter's bullies. The "Rainbow" in the school's name is in memory of the rainbows young Joy drew on every card she made.

Due to rain, Air Creebec flights were cancelled, thus a few presences were missed for the opening ceremony, notably Kathleen Wootton (Chairperson of the Cree School Board), Kim Quinn (Director of School Operations), Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, and the Cree School Board commissioners from other communities.

Shortly after 5 pm, community members gathered outside the main entrance of the school,

***"We have so much more space**…any challenges we face are outweighed by the absolute abundance that we have now"*

- Principal Shauna Simpson

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The spirit of "Joy" was definitely alive in Wemindji that day.

where speeches were delivered by Wemindji's Deputy Chief Frank Atsynia and Principal Simpson.

Wemindji school commissioner Clarence Tomatuk did the honours for the ribbon cutting, surrounded by Miniquaken and her family, who presented a wooden plaque to the school. Guests were served a turkey dinner while watching student performances by Brigitte Kakabat's traditional dance troupe and Vincent Berardinucci's music concentration class. Miniquaken's two daughters, Alyssa and Andromeda, sang a song in memory of their sister.

Although it was a grey day outside, the school was bubbling with excitement and colour. "The school, to me, even the setting of the school, is hopeful. It's very bright. Even on a bad day, it's the kind of place where you can't really get down in the dumps and I just feel hopeful when I'm here," said Simpson.

The spirit of "Joy" was definitely alive in Wemindji that day.

Montreal museum hoists **reconciliation totem pole** to symbolize healing from residential schools

"People ask me what I think about Canada's 150th birthday. I say, that's theirs, we've been partying for thousands of years, let them enjoy theirs, ours is way beyond that."

- Charles Joseph

A PILLAR OF HEALING

by Dan Isaac

Photos by Trish Chiasson

Charles Joseph was 13 years old when he left residential school for good.

"When I got home my grandparents took my residential school clothes and burnt them in front of me. They told me, 'That's not you,'" Joseph said emphatically. "They brought my regalia, put it on me, and said, 'This is who you are.' Then they took me out to the forest and taught me how to heal through cultural practices – singing, dancing and carving."

Joseph, a Kwakwaka'wakw of the Ma'amtagila band on northern Vancouver Island, is the carver of the 55-foot totem pole that will stand in front of Montreal's Musée des beaux arts on Sherbrooke Street for the next six months. The pole, owned by a private collector in Ontario, was erected May 1. Weighing four tons, it is carved out of a single red pine from Vancouver Island.

The totem's 4000-kilometre journey is symbolic of Joseph's intent to connect east and west in the process of reconciliation. "I'm telling my healing story through the pole," Joseph told *the Nation*. "I want all of Canada, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to know that we all got hurt by this. Now it's time for us to all heal together."

It took Joseph over a year to carve and paint the pole, occasionally working for 18 hours straight. "One day it took seven hours just to turn it," he said.

Nonetheless, Joseph hesitates to say that his artwork is… work. "We are a cultural people. We have different ways of healing than 'Here take a pill,'" said Joseph. "It doesn't matter how long it takes if it feels good in my heart. It's about healing."

Among the mythical figures carved into the pole are the Patron's family, Cedar Ring, Wild Woman with Two Children, Killer Whale, Raven, Bear, Arctic Fox and Kulus. Two of the symbols, the Raven and Kulus, represent the positive and negative aspects of the church.

The Raven is flanked by a nun and a priest and represents the negative. "The Raven doesn't like to be honest about things. He likes to play games," explained Joseph. "That's the government worker, the Indian agent, the staff members of the residential school, the priests and the nuns. None of them were who they were supposed to be. They dressed up like good people, but they were really something else."

"I want all of Canada, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to know that we all got hurt by this. Now it's time for us to all heal together."

Department of
Justice and Correctional Services
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www.creejustice.ca

"Beau's favourite saying was — the show must go on. Because of that alone, I'm here, and I thank him for being in my life."

The Kulus represents the positive aspects of the church. "The wings will be out there, like a cross," said Joseph. "The cross is there, because many of my family members are Christian. They use the church for service and for death and believe it's good for them."

The totem pole was brought to Montreal in celebration of the city's 375th anniversary. A celebration that coincides with a hotly debated topic in Indigenous circles – Canada 150. "People ask me what I think about Canada's 150th birthday. I say, that's theirs, we've been partying for thousands of years," joked Joseph. "Let them enjoy theirs, ours is way beyond that."

And while the museum has its own reasons for displaying the pole, Joseph sees it as a way to honour and reconnect with other First Nations. "Before it got here we did a ceremony with the Mohawk people and my family in an acknowledgement of each other," said Joseph. "Hopefully, through the pole, people will understand the healing story that's not just mine, but everyone's."

In closing, Joseph wanted to acknowledge the passing of a mentor and legend in the Northwest Coast tradition, the legendary carver Beau Dick.

"It was such an honour to learn from Beau. As soon as he'd call I'd go because he was such a great teacher. I almost cancelled this because of his unexpected passing," Joseph lamented. "But Beau's favourite saying was – the show must go on. Because of that alone, I'm here, and I thank him for being in my life."

A ceremony was held on May 3 to honour the traditional territory of the Mohawk and dedicate the pole to reconciliation.

Walking through *Generations*

Cree Cultural Institute launches traveling exhibit

by Dan Isaac
Photos by Gaston Cooper

It's a time of reflection and gratitude for Abel Bosum as he welcomes the crowd gathered in Oujé-Bougoumou to inaugurate the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute's first travelling exhibition. "We've accomplished something here," Bosum told *the Nation*. "It's certainly a wonderful feeling seeing that the exhibit is ready to hit the road."

The exhibit, *Footprints: A Walk Through Generations*, is the culmination of three years of hard work by staff at the Cultural Institute, as well as countless contributions from the 10 Cree communities, Elders, artists and storytellers.

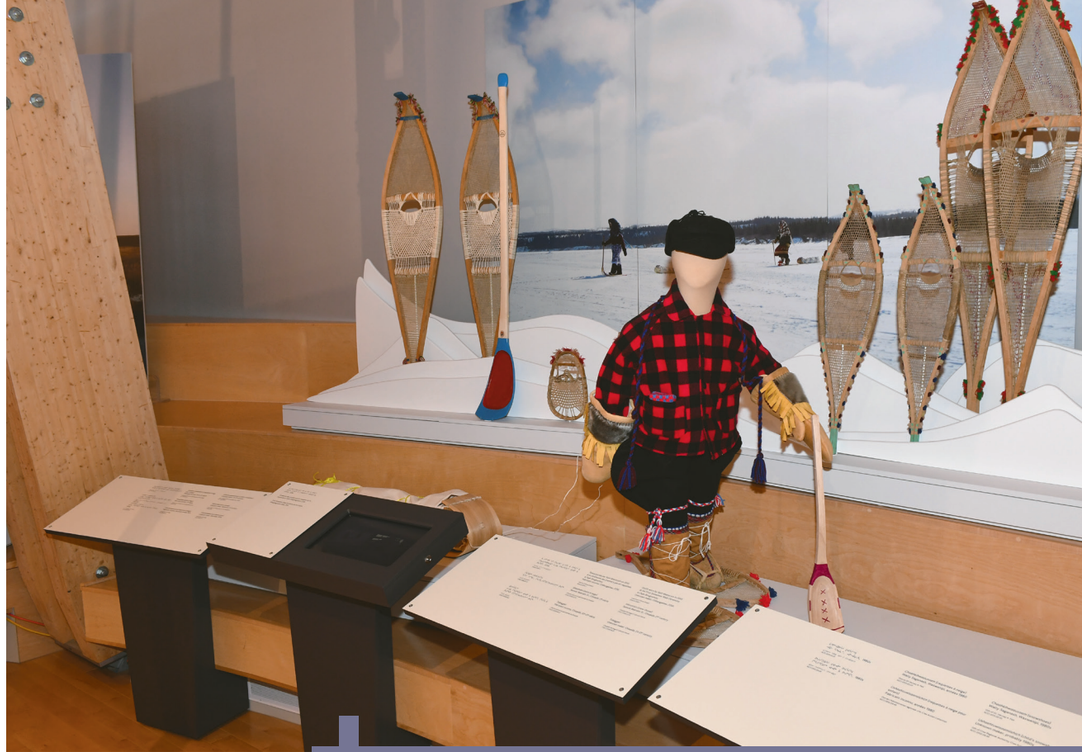
For both the Cultural Institute, on whose board Bosum sits as president, and Eeyou Istchee culture in general, the inauguration is a milestone. A symbol of how Cree culture has gone from surviving to thriving.

It's both a showcase and a celebration of Cree traditions, teachings and values through the eyes of the Cree and tied to the theme of walking. "It's about walking on the land that your ancestors

Natasia Mukash

"Walking is a form of healing and many people are returning to that approach of walking to deal with this crazy world we live in."

- Dr. Abel Bosum (pictured below)



have walked for many generations," said Bosum. "It's intended to help you appreciate how important the environment is and why we need to protect it for the next generation."

Bosum himself was preparing to go out on the land during his interview with *the Nation*.

"Walking is a form of healing and many people are returning to that approach of walking to deal with this crazy world we live in," he observed. "It reminds us of where we come from and what's important. It roots us down to who we are and what we need to pass on."

Footprints will be on display throughout the summer at the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute in Oujé-Bougoumou. In the winter it will begin its tour of the Cree communities with the goal of going across Canada.

"The exhibit will go down through Quebec and into Ontario," said Rob Imrie, Director of Programs at the institute. "From that point, it's on to museums in western Canada."

From a reconciliation standpoint, the Canadian tour couldn't be more timely. As Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary, non-Indigenous Canada remains, in large part, ignorant of the diversity of Indigenous cultures. The exhibit seeks to bridge that gap in the name of reconciliation.

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

G. C. C. E. I.

C. N. G.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE) AND CREE NATION GOVERNMENT

Please take notice that ELECTIONS for the offices of Grand Chief/Chairperson and Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Nation Government have been called.

The schedule for the elections is as follows:
NOMINATIONS OPEN: Tuesday, May 23, 2017
NOMINATIONS CLOSE: Thursday, June 1, 2017
CLOSING OF BALLOTS: Wednesday, June 7, 2017
ADVANCE POLLS: Wednesday, July 5, 2017
ELECTION DAY: Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Nominations for the Positions of Grand Chief/Chairperson and Deputy Grand Chief/ Vice Chairperson open on Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

QUALIFICATION TO VOTE

The qualification for eligibility to vote and to participate in the elections is as follows:
a) To be a Cree beneficiary in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
b) To be of the age of majority at the date of the elections
(18 years of age on July 12, 2017).
c) Not to be affected by any legal incapacity.

QUALIFICATION TO BE A CANDIDATE

Any nomination for candidacy must be duly made by ten (10) eligible voters, as prescribed in the attached nomination forms for both positions, in order to be declared a valid nomination by the Chief Electoral Officer. No one shall sign a nomination for more than one candidate for either position.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

The deadline for submission of the nomination forms is at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, 2017. Please be advised that nominations received after the posted time will not be accepted.
The nominees will have until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 to inform the Chief Electoral Officer whether to accept or decline his/her nomination.

The nomination forms can be obtained from the Local Returning Officers that have been appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer or from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

For further information, please contact:
Robin Pachanos
Chief Electoral Officer
Email: rpachanos@cngelections.ca
Tel: 418-748-5495

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

G. C. C. E. I.

C. N. G.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

YOUTH GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY YOUTH GRAND CHIEF/VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL (EEYOU ISTCHEE)

To all Cree youth beneficiaries (Ages 13-35) of Eeyou Istchee, please take notice that an election for the office of the Youth Grand Chief/Chairperson and Deputy Youth Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) has been called and that election day will take place on **Thursday, June 22, 2017.**

The schedule of the Election shall be as follows:
NOMINATIONS OPEN: Monday, May 1, 2017
NOMINATIONS CLOSE: Friday, May 19, 2017
CLOSING OF BALLOTS: Wednesday, May 24, 2017
ADVANCE POLLS: Monday, June 19, 2017
ELECTION DAY: Thursday, June 22, 2017

Nominations for the Positions of Youth Grand Chief/Chairperson and Deputy Youth Grand Chief/ Vice Chairperson open on Monday, May 1, 2017.

QUALIFICATION TO VOTE

The qualification to vote in the election is as follows: To be a Cree beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) between the ages of thirteen to thirty-five years old on the day of the election (Ages 13-35 on Thursday, June 22, 2017).

QUALIFICATION TO BE A CANDIDATE

Any person nominated for the position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and a member of the CNYC. However, any person who acts as a Chief Electoral Officer or Local Electoral Officer for the election may not be a candidate.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Only persons who meet the qualifications and who are nominated by a CNYC member on the nomination form provided by the Chief Electoral Officer may be candidates for Youth Grand Chief/Chairperson and Deputy Youth Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson. The nomination form can be obtained from the Local Returning Officers. The nomination form must be completed and filed with the Local Returning Officer by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017. Please be advised that nominations received after this date will not be accepted.

The nominees will have until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 to confirm with the Chief Electoral Officer whether they accept or decline their nomination as a candidate.
The time and location of advance polls and election day polling stations will be specified at a later date.

For further information, please contact:
Robin Pachanos
Chief Electoral Officer
Email: rpachanos@cngelections.ca
Tel: 418-748-5495

SECRÉTARIAT AUX ALLIANCES ÉCONOMIQUES NATION CRIE ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

SECRETARIAT TO THE CREE NATION ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

IN COLLABORATION WITH

CREE NATION OF MISTISSINI

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

Cree Nation Government
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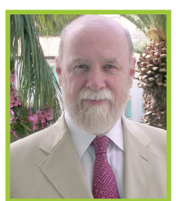
Executive Director
Cree Outfitting & Tourism Association

Mr. Mitchell Dion
Director General
Tourisme Baie-James

Mr. Keith Henry
President and CEO
Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN QUEBEC

Mr. Youcef Larbi
Chief Geologist and Head of the Executive
Cree Mineral Exploration Board



Mr. Michel A. Bouchard
Full Professor
University of Montréal
Challenges of mining and long-term regional development

Mr. Robert Marquis
President and CEO
Institut national des mines du Québec

REGISTRATION/INFORMATION

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The outdoor **pharmacy**

by Sonny Orr

Rez Notes

I was coughing viciously and constantly. We were 250 kilometres from any sort of modern medical care, and in the final days of filming deep in the wilderness called home. The director was getting a little annoyed at my unrelenting haranguing cough, which ruined many a scene. I was the sound guy and in charge of pyrotechnics (which meant chopping wood and feeding the wood stove). For several documentaries at the time I was a "mechanic" – you name it, I fixed it.

But I couldn't fix my cough. The Elders we were filming, however, were harvesting several medicines to prepare for the documentary. My hacking and external noises interrupted key shots and we knew we had to get these shots or else face execution executive-style from the big bosses!

The nice Googum, I'll call her, made several concoctions, explaining all the steps of preparation and recommended dosages. She mentioned one particular medicine that if taken too much, would make you very sleepy. We all had a good laugh over that one. Then, after her presentation on prepared Cree medicine, she offered me a small spoon of each one. Amazingly, my cough and cold and anything that made me feel bad disappeared within 15 minutes! Nor did I catch any colds or flu for a few years too. Ahhh, those old cures are still often as effective, if not better, than modern-day medicines.

> If it weren't for hospitals and the system we have now, I'd probably be **pushing daisies** for a number of years already.

The nice thing about our traditional medicines is that you have to be out on the land to get them. With a nice packsack, you can pick up a lot of good stuff out there, not to mention mushrooms, berries, grouse, rabbit, partridge and fish. It's an outdoor pharmacy and fresh-food grocery store all rolled into an outdoor package of fitness, wholesome living and all those other healthy wealthy lifestyles we often pine (or whine) for.

The side effects are pretty obvious after a while – no danger of heart conditions, obesity, lung cancers and exposure to other lethal modern concoctions that quietly shorten your lifespan. Also, a good gastric system and leg muscles and shoulder strength from paddling all contributed to the side effects of this type of lifestyle. Plus, a greater appreciation for what is still around for our children to benefit from – the legacy of a Cree way of life in our environment.

But is this happening in real life? In this age when medical evacuations outnumber regular passengers and self-inflicted miseries surround us, it's a wonder that our way of life is still hanging in there. This age of convenience that has made it all too convenient to shift towards the easiest and shortest way has its own set of side effects. These are reflected in our actions resulting in the consequences we live to regret or replay over and over again, creating an inner pain in need of a cure. The cure is often more dangerous than the actual inflictions – read the fine print at the bottom of your screen and listen closely to the side effects, which may lead to death! Go figure, medicine needs curing too.

But I'm not the one to debunk hospitals and nurses or even the health system. The system has saved my life numerous times from food poisonings, tonsillitis, bad toenails, and an appendectomy or two. All have contributed to several near-death experiences which are too gory to explain in front of the kids. If it weren't for hospitals and the health system we have, I'd probably be pushing up daisies for a number of years already. But lucky me, I'm still around bothering people here and there, safely couch-potatoing away.

Under the Northern Sky

Spring pirates

by Xavier Kataquapit

It's 1987 during the first days of spring. I am out with my friends for a Sunday afternoon of running around the community. There is no internet to keep us at home and no video games to keep us occupied. We have exhausted every television program we can watch on the three channels that are available to us.

Our first task is to gather our group of friends. We focus our attention on what we call Kataquapit Road, the street in the centre of town where our grandparents Janie and James Kataquapit once lived. Our uncles Alex, Gabriel, Leo and George live within a few houses from each other along this road. On an adjacent street just a few steps away is Uncle Thomas whose son Henry has a house nearby. A street further on is where my home sits. At this point in our young lives this is our world.

Here we gather together relations from 8 to 12 years of age, including my Uncle Thomas' grandkids Thomas, Jooshish and Ahtwen; Uncle Alex's grandkids Joey, Loli and Gary; Uncle George's grandkids Scotty, Puckapuck, Travis, Charlie and Weebop, and my brothers Joojep and Paul. We speak Cree and run around on the street without much direction as our entire world revolves around these streets and trails.

As the oldest boy, Jooshish becomes our leader and we organize ourselves into a scouting party of sorts. We are ordered to search for treasures from the past winter. We all know that people lose many things throughout the winter so we scout out the best places first and work our way around the community.

We start our route with the local hockey rink where the surface has receded into an ugly patchwork of melted ice, pools of water and frozen soil and gravel. This is where we gather our tools for the day. We find broken hockey sticks that we use for digging, poking and prodding. We scout around the outside of the rink and find a variety of lost pucks. It's a game of finders keepers, loses weepers. Whoever finds it, keeps it, so we all eagerly search for these treasures.

We continue our trek to the JR Nakogee School and hunt first around the rear door and then the main entrance where the previous winter drew bingo players, wedding guests and dance partners. We knew from stories around the community that people had lost coins, bills and other items as they stood out in the snow during these events. A few of us end up with some coins that prove the rumours of treasure and some of us uncover a few unopened lottery tab tickets. We are lucky pirates this day for sure.

Our next stop is to climb up to the rise where the old water treatment plant stands and then across old Uncle Alex's yard towards the community hall where busy dances had been held over winter. The front and rear entrances proved to be a goldmine for us as we unearthed more lost coins. Strangely there were also interesting finds of pieces of cards, notes, small toys and cigarette lighters. I take a break from my pirate treasure hunt as my home is just across the street and take the opportunity for a quick gulp of hot tea mixed with plenty of canned milk and sugar. My mom reminds me to keep an eye on my two younger brothers and then I head back out into the treasure-hunt adventure.

We continue on our walk and head towards the steeple of the Catholic Church. On our way, we sift through the ditches on the roadside, scouring the water and banks for more loot. We stop at the local hospital and search around the main entrance for anything interesting, but find mostly cigarette butts and attention from too many adults who don't seem to remember they were once pirates in search of treasure on these roads.

We get to the church and make our way to the front entrance but sadly find nothing of interest, except for old flyers advertising the services from the previous months. We move on with stars in our eyes to the goldmine we had been looking forward to at the main entrance of the Northern Store. The snow around the south-facing entrance has almost all melted and it is easy to dig through the thin layers to search for lost treasures. We find enough coins to turn our hunt into a shopping spree for chips, pop and candy later on.

As we chomp away on the spoils of our hunt we remember the legendary time my younger brother Joojep found a $100 bill. Now that was one heck of a find but he had to return it to our cousin who had reported it lost. Still it could have been a windfall and we know that some day another $100 bill will turn up. That thought sits well with us as we savour our bounty for the day.

Now, as I sit at my laptop many years later I recall these active and magical days of my childhood in Attawapiskat. It saddens me that young people today are not out there running around their local streets and trails using their imaginations to play and perform. We are all too easily held to the power of television, cable TV, satellite channels, internet and video games. We are inside way too much and sitting for hours letting our fingers wander rather than our legs and imaginations.

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